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Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women

Statement submitted by World Federation of Khoja Shi'a Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

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Statement

The World Federation of Khoja Shi'a Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities is a humanitarian non-governmental organization, a faith- and community-based organization that aims to provide education and relieve poverty as enshrined in its constitution. It has undertaken several projects in the 30 years since its formation, in partnership with regional members and local agencies, in areas such as relief, economic development, education, health care and water and sanitation.

The World Federation has learned that entire societies develop when women and youth are empowered to fully contribute to the agenda. In the light of the theme of this year's annual ministerial review, implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women, the World Federation would like to applaud the role of the United Nations in ensuring that gender is a key element in all development aspects. The World Federation ensures that its activities address the importance of gender equality for the benefit of the community and humanity at large. The values of the organization are enshrined in the values of Islam, which clearly empower women to take greater social and economic responsibility in the development of a highly effective community.

The World Federation has ensured that women play a significant part in all its operations, from its staff and governance structures to the thematic areas of work. In order to provide education for the poor in deprived regions of India and Pakistan, the World Federation administers seven schools in partnership with local agencies. It ensures that the ratios of girls to boys are maintained at the required standards, to avoid gender disparity. Education sponsorships for students in 15 countries ensure that girls have the same opportunity to learn as boys. Inadequate health is a barrier to the realization of women's development, therefore the World Federation's health-care centres provide medical treatment to the poor, especially women and children, as they are the foundation of the family unit. The relief activities, microfinance initiatives and economic betterment programmes undertaken by the World Federation are available to both women and men equally.

These are some of the services that have been provided as part of its strategic objectives and its contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. Over the years, the World Federation has spent millions collected from its fund-raising efforts to support international causes in order to relieve poverty and promote public health care and education for the betterment of society. The World Federation seeks to further promote collaboration with other partners to intensify the achievement of the Goals related to health, education and gender empowerment, to ensure that the individuals continue receiving their basic rights.